

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

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Montana Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony  
Myrna Loy Center, January 14, 2009

Thank you. I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak to all of you tonight, and the chance to commend those who have taken the time and effort to care about Montana's numerous treasures of historic properties, traditional cultural places, and archaeological sites.

We Montanans pride ourselves on the fact that we are individuals who know and appreciate the value of land. Long before the arrival of Euro-Americans, Montana served as home to indigenous populations who also appreciated and valued the land. The Montana ideal continued with the influx of individuals from all walks of life: miners, loggers, trappers, farmers and ranchers, railroaders and homesteaders.

Their rugged courage and dedication to the dream of a better life motivated them into carving out a life on the Montana frontier. Their determination led to the development of what is now Helena, Billings, Great Falls, Butte, Kalispell, Missoula, and <sup>Miles City,</sup> and numerous other cities and towns located across the state. However, many other once-thriving settlements have faded into history. Still, the determination of earlier generations and their gift of hard work have been passed on to us.

It has often been said that to know where we are going, we must know where we have been. Let us remember that progress also provides us with opportunities to renew and reinvent. We can make the old function to meet modern needs and even recognize the sanctity of something and not touch it. Those of you we recognize tonight represent that reflective thinking and deliberate action towards preservation.

Because of your efforts, future generations will have the opportunity to view our state's historical sites, and from that, gain an understanding of what it was like to be an early resident of our state.

For those of you who have listed your property in the National Register of Historic Places, who have persuaded and educated others on the benefits of site preservation, and have invested both time and money, I say thank you. Your hard work and dedication has helped to preserve many treasures and legacies that will live on for many future generations to enjoy and from which to learn.